

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 180533
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/EPS:CCCUNDIFF:LM
APPROVED BY AF:WHARROP
EUR/RPE:PMCLEAN
E:TMINNIES (SUBS)
EB:FNASH (SUBS)
S/S:O:SVALERGA
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
AF, EUR,E AND EB DISTRIBUTION ONLY
-----064113 180028Z /62
O 172355Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180533

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
EXDIS FOR ASSIST SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, FR, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICA BILATERALS WITH THE FRENCH: GISCARD FUND

1. FOR YOUR BILATERALS WITH THE FRENCH, YOU MIGHT FIND
USEFUL AS BACKGROUND TO REVIEW THE FOLLOWING CLEARED
TEXT ON THE GISCARD FUND. IT WAS IN THE SECRETARY'S
BONN BRIEFING BOOK FOR HIS BILATERALS WITH DE GUIRINGAUD.

2. BEGIN TEXT: ESSENTIAL FACTORS: THE FRENCH MAY PRESS
FOR US ADHERANCE TO THE GISCARD FUND FOR AFRICA. THEY NOW
SEEM WILLING TO ABANDON THE ORIGINAL FUND CONCEPT FOR A
"PROGRAM" OF SELECTED, HIGHLY VISIBLE PROJECTS SUPPORTED
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BY A LIMITED NUMBER OF WESTERN DONORS. WE HAVE PROBLEMS
WITH MANY ASPECTS OF THE FRENCH APPROACH. WE ARE ALSO
CONCERNED ABOUT HOW TO CONSULT WITH THE AFRICANS. WE WILL
CONTINUE TALKS WITH THE FRENCH.

3. POINTS TO BE MADE:

-- WE SUPPORT THE GENERAL AIM OF DONOR COORDINATION WHICH WILL LEAD TO GREATER VISIBILITY FOR THE LARGE AND GROWING ASSISTANCE EFFORT IN AFRICA.

-- WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH SPECIFICS OF THE GISCARD PROPOSAL. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE CANNOT DO: I.E., CONTRIBUTE TO A NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTION; MAKE MULTI-YEAR FINANCING COMMITMENTS; AGREE IN ADVANCE TO A HIGH US FIXED SHARE OF FINANCING; OR SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO BASIC NEEDS.

-- WE CAN: FACILITATE BETTER COORDINATION AMONG DONORS AND RECIPIENTS ON A BROAD RANGE OF DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, WORK TOGETHER WITH THE PRINCIPAL AFRICAN DONORS AND RECIPIENTS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRESENT PROGRAMS, AND SEEK JOINT FINANCING OF SELECTED LARGE PROJECTS WITH OTHER DONORS.

-- WE ARE STUDYING OUR OWN CAPABILITIES GIVEN THE LIMITATIONS ON OUR AID FLEXIBILITY AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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